

Appl. No. 09/683,662
Amdt. Dated July 22, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 22, 2004

Docket No. DE92000079US1

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-17 currently stand rejected. New claims 18 and 19 are respectfully submitted for examination via the above amendment. To move the prosecution forward, editorial amendments have been made certain claims to bring their recitals into conformance with customary USPTO practice.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC Sec. 102(b)

In the Office Action mailed April 22, 2004, the examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) asserting that claim 1 is anticipated by, and therefore unpatentable over, U.S. Patent 5,336,984 issued to MISCHENKO et al., hereinafter referred to as "*Mischenko*." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Mischenko discloses a connector that provides power from a portable, battery-powered device to another portable electronic device. The embodiment described is simply an accessory power connector that disconnects the second portable device's battery when connected the first portable device, and which allows the second device to use the first device's battery.

By contrast, claim 1 recites a mobile data processing device having a port for connecting an *external* power supply and an additional port to supply power another mobile data processing device. This allows *the external power supply* connected to a first mobile data processing device to also power a second mobile data processing device. *Mischenko* fails to teach this feature. Instead, *Mischenko's connector*, as applied by the examiner, teaches the use of the first device's internal power supply (battery) (not an external power source) to power the second device. Thus, *Mischenko* is devoid of any teaching of an *external* power supply connected to one data processor to provide power to other data processor devices.

An alternative interpretation of *Mischenko* would be to read the second device receiving power through the connector as having a port for connecting an external power supply, where the external power supply is the first portable device's battery. This reading, however, also is deficient because the second device connected to the purported external power supply then fails to meet the limitation of a further port for providing power to another mobile data processing device.

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Applicants therefore respectfully submit that given its broadest interpretation, the *Mischenko* patent fails to meet the limitation of a mobile data processor having a port for connecting an external power supply and a further port for providing power to another mobile data processing device featured in claim 1. *Mischenko* is thus incapable of anticipating claim 1 because it does not show "all element" of the recited claim, and therefore cannot provide the support necessary to sustain a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

Applicants respectfully request that the Office reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

Rejections Under 35 USC Sec. 103(a)

The examiner rejects claims 2-7, 12, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mischenko* in view of U.S. Patent 6,348,744 issued to LEVESQUE, hereinafter referred to as "*Levesque*."

Claim 8-11, 14, 15 and 17 are similarly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mischenko* in view of *Levesque* in further view of U.S. Patent 5,907,464 issued to MALONEY, hereinafter referred to as "*Maloney*." Applicants respectfully disagree.

In addition to the above discussed deficiencies of *Mischenko*, relied on as the primary reference to support the various rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), which alone renders the proposed combination, as applied, incapable of meeting each limitation of claims 2-17; the proposed combination of *Mischenko* and *Levesque* also fails to anticipate, or render obvious any of the claims. Moreover, the examiner reads *Levesque* as disclosing an integrated power management module wherein a data register for the DC/DC converter allows the output voltage of the DC/DC converter to be programmed via the communications interface, concluding that it would have been obvious to modify the device of *Mischenko* to include an integrated power management module, as disclosed in *Levesque*.

First, the rejection under Sec. 103(a) predicated on *Levesque* is technically deficient because of *Levesque*'s subsequent publication date, i.e., February 19, 2002. The present application, on the other hand, was filed January 31, 2002. Thus, a rejection

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under Sec. 103(a) alone based on Levesque would be improper. Levesque indeed may have application under 102(e)/103(a), but the examiner has not applied such a rejection.

Second, regarding the rejection of claims 2-17, none of the references to teach or suggest an input port to connect an *external* power supply adapter for receiving external power and to daisy-chain such external power via additional ports to at least one other data processing device. Neither *Mischenko* nor *Levesque*, or a combination thereof, discloses this feature.

The examiner also rejects claims 8-11, 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mischenko* in view of *Levesque* in further view of U.S. Patent 5,907,464 issued to MALONEY, hereinafter referred to as *Maloney*. In view of the above discussed deficiencies of *Mischenko* as applied to independent claim 1 and the above discussed deficiencies of the proposed combination of *Mischenko* and *Levesque* as applied to independent claim 12, the rejection should be withdrawn. Further, regarding the rejection of claims 9 and 14, applicants have not been able to find support in *Levesque* that "independent voltage regulator circuits having independent outputs" are shown. Clarification is requested.

New Claims

Applicants submit new claims 18 and 19 that recite a mobile device power server providing regulated power from an *external* power supply to a plurality of mobile processing devices. These claims recite a primary port that receives power from an external power supply as well as least one supplemental port that provides power to at least one supplemental mobile processing device. The supplemental port is coupled to the primary port through a voltage regulator. Claim 19 integrates the MD PS into a data processing device. Support for these new claims is found in paragraphs 23 - 35 of the detailed description and in Figs. 3, 4 and 5.

Minor amendments were also made to other claims to address informalities.

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Reconsideration is respectfully requested. An associate power of attorney accompanies this paper.

Respectfully submitted,
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